

**Montana Supreme Court
Commission on Self Represented Litigants**

MINUTES

1:30 p.m., May 19 2008

State Law Library Conference Room

1. Present: Peg Allison, Judy Meadows, Judge Snowberger, Ed Higgins, Judge Fagg, Corbin Howard, Sally Johnson, Chris Manos, Lonnie Browning, Patty Fain, Ann Gilkey
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: the Minutes were not available
3. Self Help Law Program: Lonnie Browning reported.
 - A. Forms that are being prepared on contract by MLSA will be available for the Commission in August. They will be available in both PDT and Word, both fill-in-able.
 - B. 8 Mini-grants have been awarded around the state. Those sites will use the same evaluation forms as the 2 self-help centers. The new version of HotDocs for Family law is ready.
 - C. Training for those involved in helping SRLs will be held on social security issues, disability rights, adoption, family law, unauthorized practice of law.
3. Pro Bono Program: Patty Fain reported
 - A. She is working on a visit to the Kalispell legal community.
 - B. Planning is beginning on holding local equal justice hearings, modeled on similar activities in Colorado and New Jersey. Would promote issues on access to the courts, and culminate before the Legislative Session.
 - C. A judicial survey was conducted of the District Court Judges. 42 responses were received. The greatest need articulated was for family law modifications; 90% of custody matters have had a fee waiver. 63% of judges say they spend 30% or less time on SRLs. 23% of the judges support limited representation.General Discussion on unbundling followed. There were suggestions that the topic could be included in future Bar road shows. Judy said that she could get Sue Talia, a judge who is an expert on this, to come to talk to either the Bar or the judges.
4. Report on Equal Justice Conference: Meadows, Fair, Gilkey
5. Judicial Training and J.A. Training report: Meadows
6. Forms: General review on suggested changes to Privacy Rules and how they will affect Commission's forms